

REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claim 17 is cancelled herein without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter set forth therein. Claims 1-7 were previously cancelled. Claims 8-16 and 18 are pending. Independent claims 8 and 9 are amended. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings alleging that the drawings fail to disclose the subject matter set forth in claim 17. In response, claim 17 has been cancelled.

In addition, four Sheets of Replacement Drawings are attached (including FIG. 4(a), FIG. 4(b), FIG. 4(c), FIG. 5(a), FIG. 5(b), FIG. 6, FIG. 7(a), and FIG. 7(b)). The Examiner will note that FIGS. 7(a) and 7(b) have been revised in order to designate limited rotation angle α of the frame, notch 61 of member 311, and stopper 62 of member 312. No new matter has been added.

Claim for Priority

The Examiner has acknowledged the Applicants' claim for foreign priority based on Japanese Patent Application 2002-084206, and PCT Application JP03/03645.

Information Disclosure Citation

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the reference supplied with the Information Disclosure Statement filed September 24, 2004, and for providing Applicants with an initialed copy of the PTO form filed therewith.

Amendments To The Specification

The Applicants have voluntarily amended the Abstract in order to place it in better form. In addition, page 10 of the specification has been voluntarily amended to provide antecedent basis of the elements claimed and shown in the FIGS. No new matter has been added.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs

Claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs. These rejections respectfully traversed.

In order to overcome this rejection, the Applicants have cancelled claim 17. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a)

Claims 8 and 11-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by Aisley (U.S. 4,396,249));

claims 9, 10, and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Aisley (U.S. 4,396,249) in view of Kato (U.S. 403,907);

claims 8 and 11-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 58-12615 in view of Aisley (U.S. 4,396,249); and

claims 9, 10, and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 58-12615 in view of Aisley (U.S. 4,396,249) and further in view of Kato (U.S. 403,907).

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Amendments to Independent Claims 8 and 9

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, each of independent claims 8 and 9 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed a makeup mirror unit, including

wherein the sub mirrors are fixed to the outer ends of the frames so as to freely rotate in a horizontal direction, and side ends of the sub mirrors are adjacent with respect to each other in a state where the left and right sub mirrors are positioned facing outwardly in a front center portion of the makeup mirror, and

wherein in a state where the sub mirrors are rotated forward and the side ends of the sub mirrors are matched together facing outwardly in the front center portion of the main mirror, the limited rotation angle of the frame prevents the sub mirrors from rotating toward the main mirror by more than a predetermined distance, and protects the main mirror from being damaged by back surfaces of the sub mirrors.

Support for the novel combination of elements included in independent claims 8 and 9 can be seen in FIGS. 3, 4(a)-(c), 5(a), 6, 7(a) and 7(b).

Regarding JP58-12615, Aisley and Kato

In contrast to the present invention, as can be seen in Aisley FIGS. 1 and 9, the frames are attached on the outside of the rack, and the sub mirrors 30 face inwardly. In Aisley FIGS. 6-8, the sub mirrors 30 are directly attached to the cabinet 10, and it is impossible for mirrors 30 to be matched together facing outwardly in front of the main mirror.

In contrast to the present invention, as can be seen in JP 58-12615 FIGS. 2-9, mirror 5 is slidably attached to frame 4.

While Kato teaches a single mirror facing outwardly that is directly attached to the cabinet without a rotating frame.

Further, no combination of JP 58-12615, Aisley, and Kato provides any hint or suggestion of “the limited rotation angle of the frame prevents the sub mirrors from rotating toward the main mirror by more than a predetermined distance, and protects the main mirror from being damaged by back surfaces of the sub mirrors”, as required by each of claims 8 and 9.

At least for the reasons explained above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements as set forth in each of independent claims 8 and 9 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including JP 58-12615, Aisley, and Kato.

Therefore, independent claims 8 and 9 are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner will note that dependent claim 17 has been cancelled.

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All dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from allowable independent claims, or due to the additional novel features set forth therein.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a) are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 208-4030(direct line).

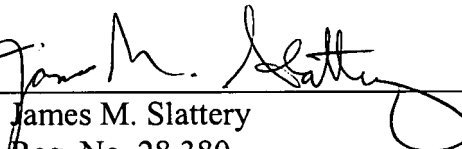
If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Dated: -

MAY 25 2007

Respectfully submitted,
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By


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Enclosed:

Revised Abstract
Four Sheets of Replacement Drawings